

In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending.

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:  
providing masking material comprising a substrate and an adhesive disposed over a first face of the substrate;  
providing a pane having a surface;  
calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the surface of the pane will surround the protective covering, the unmasked apron being large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering ~~protects~~ will substantially protect a portion of the pane not covered by the sash;  
forming a the protective covering by applying a plurality of masking material strips onto the surface of the pane in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip partially overlapping a preceding strip by the overlap dimension; and  
forming a tab by folding the substrate of at least one strip so that a first portion of the substrate overlaps a second portion of the substrate.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A method of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly comprising the steps of:  
providing masking material comprising a substrate and a first adhesive disposed upon a first face of the substrate;  
providing a pane having a pane surface;  
calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the pane surface surrounds the protective covering, the unmasked

apron being large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering ~~protects~~ will substantially protect a portion of the pane not covered by the sash;

forming a the protective covering by applying a plurality of masking material strips onto the pane surface in a sequentially overlapping fashion according to the overlap dimension; ~~and~~

providing an information bearing sheet comprising a sheetstock having a first side, a second side and second adhesive overlaying the first side of the sheetstock;

~~applying an information bearing sheet over the protective covering;~~

adhering the second adhesive to the protective covering;

wherein the second adhesive has substantially greater adhesion than the first adhesive.

5. - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 4, wherein the step of providing the information bearing sheet comprises the step of providing sheetstock comprising wherein the sheetstock comprises a substantially frangible material.

8. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 7, wherein the sheetstock comprises paper.

9. - 15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes~~ The method of claim 4, wherein the step of providing the information bearing sheet comprises the step of providing the sheetstock with a second indicia printed on a the second side thereof.

17. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes~~ The method of claim 16, wherein the step of providing the information bearing sheet comprises the step of providing the sheetstock with a first indicia printed on a the first side thereof.

18. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 17, wherein the information bearing sheet includes a~~ The method of claim 17, wherein the step of providing the information bearing sheet comprises the step of providing the sheetstock with the second adhesive overlaying the first indicia and the first side of the sheetstock.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 18,~~  
The method of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both ~~substantially~~ sufficiently transparent to allow viewing of the first indicia therethrough.

21. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 18,~~  
The method of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both ~~substantially~~ sufficiently translucent to allow viewing of the first indicia therethrough.

22. (currently amended) ~~The window assembly of claim 14,~~  
The method of claim 4, wherein the information bearing sheet includes indicia comprising an advertisement for goods likely to be purchased by a user of the window assembly.

23. - 25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of protecting a masked area of a surface comprising the steps of:

providing masking material having a width W;

providing the width of the masking material to a masking calculator;

providing a desired width of the masked area to the masking calculator;

calculating a number of strips having a width W and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the first surface ~~surrounds~~ will surround the protective covering; and

applying a plurality of strips having a width W to the surface in an overlapping fashion according to the overlap dimension to form a protective covering with an unmasked apron of the first surface surrounding the protective covering.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the strips are applied in a sequential fashion with each subsequent strip partially overlapping a preceding strip by the overlap dimension.

28. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing the desired width of the masked area to the masking calculator includes the step of detecting a dimension of the planar surface.

29.-32. (canceled)

References Relied on by the Examiner

U.S. Pat. No. 1,284,997 to Bigler describes a roof construction in which strips of varying width are obtained by “cutting the fabric throughout it’s length.” (Page 1, lines 65-66.) A first, narrow strip of fabric 3 is laid on the lowest edge of a roof as shown in figure 1. A second strip of fabric 4 twice as wide as the first strip 3 is laid over the first strip 4. A third strip of fabric 5 three times as wide as the first strip 3, is laid over both first strip 3 and second strip 4. Then, a fourth strip of fabric 6 four times as wide as first strip 3, is laid over first strip 3, second strip 4, and third strip 5. (page 1, lines 48-60.) “The object of laying the roof in this way is to have it, when completed, of exactly four-ply thickness throughout.” (Page 1, lines 93-96.) In figure 1, the fabric strips 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. are shown extending across the entire length of the roof.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,330,232 to Smith is entitled clear window label. Figure 4 of this patent shows a label 28 including an adhesive that is pressed into contact with the inside surface of a window 30 (column 3, lines 56-59). Smith teaches that when this is done, non-variable indicia 25 and variable indicia 27 are visible and readable through window 30 (column 3, lines 59-62). In figure 4, label 28 is shown extending across the entire length of window 30.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,866,260 to Adams, Jr. is entitled Masked Glazing Panels. Figures 1-6 illustrate a procedure for making a glazing assembly. (Column 2, Lines 32-33). Figure 1 shows a typical glazing panel. (Column 2, Line 35). The illustrated glazing panel 18 has a first planer surface 20, a second planer surface 21, and four edge surfaces. In a first step, bodies of masking material 22, 24 are respectively positioned on the surfaces 20, 21 of the pane 18. In the illustrated embodiment of figure 2, the bodies 22, 24 cover the entire areas of the surfaces 20,21. (Column 2, Lines 43-48). Next, strips of the masking material are removed from two marginal regions 20A which extend along opposite edges of the surface 20. This leaves a body 22A of masking material as shown in figure 3A. (Column 2, Lines

51-53). Next, strips of the masking material are removed from other marginal portions 20B of the surface 20 leaving a body 22B of masking material as shown in figure 4. (Column 2, Lines 55-58). The marginal regions 20A and 20B are together referred to as perimeter region of the surface 20 in the text of the patent. The remainder of the surface 20 is referred to as a central region 20C.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,458,440 to Merritt is entitled Spacer Materials. Merritt discusses spacing elements that are used to keep individual glass sheets apart with a view toward easing handling and avoiding damage due to relative movement or foreign bodies being caught between the sheets (column 1, lines 9-15). Merritt discusses a spacer element having at least one adhesive carrying face with at least a portion of the adhesive carrying face being free of adhesive (column 1, lines 42-46).